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Viewing cable 08YEREVAN873, CRIME SPREE PROMPTS CHARGES OF "CRIMINAL STATE" BY OPPOSITION

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08YEREVAN873**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08YEREVAN873	2008-11-03 14:37	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Yerevan

Appears in these articles:

http://rusrep.ru/article/2011/02/08/crime_armenia/

VZCZCXRO1755
RR RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHROV RUEHSR
DE RUEHYE #0873/01 3081437
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 031437Z NOV 08
FM AMEMBASSY YEREVAN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8217
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 YEREVAN 0000873

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/02/2018
TAGS: PGOV PHUM PINS PREL ASEC AM
SUBJECT: CRIME SPREE PROMPTS CHARGES OF "CRIMINAL STATE" BY OPPOSITION

REF: YEREVAN 599 YEREVAN 00000873 001.2 OF 003

SUMMARY

1. (C) A recent string of unconnected violent attacks around Armenia has prompted the opposition to decry the emergence of a "criminal state."

ARMENIA'S BLOODY NORTH

2. (SBU) Late on Friday, October 24, two unrelated attacks occurred in the northern cities of Spitak (population 13,590) and Stepanavan (popul

3. (U) In Stepanavan, an agricultural town located approximately 30 miles to the north of Spitak, the two-term incumbent mayor Sarkis Gharakes

4. (U) The attack on Gharakeshishian took place between 10-11 pm in a restaurant he owns on the outskirts of town where he was alone with one

5. (C) All of the wounded were immediately treated in Stepanavan's German-built Red Cross hospital, with the Mayor then being transferred to v

YEREVAN'S VENDETTA MURDER AND DISCOTHEQUE VIOLENCE

6. (SBU) On October 26 in broad daylight in one of Yerevan's central neighborhoods, two young men shot and killed one man, while wounding his

7. (SBU) Also over the same weekend, violence broke out in two separate Yerevan discotheques, where a shootout in one of them reportedly left

OPPOSITION CALLS CRIME SPREE PROOF OF CRIMINAL STATE

8. (SBU) On October 29, the Armenian National Congress led by ex-President Levon Ter-Petrossian released a statement condemning the recent vic

DUTCH BUSINESSMAN ATTACKED AGAIN

9. (SBU) In a separate, unrelated attack, Hans Boon, the Dutch director of HayPost whose firm (PostBank) won a tender last year to operate and

UKRAINIAN AMBASSADOR'S APARTMENT RANSACKED

11. (C) Ukraine's Ambassador to Armenia recently shared with the Ambassador that his apartment was broken into on Sunday, October 19. He belie

COMMENT

12. (C) Armenia and the city of Yerevan have traditionally been quite safe cities for average citizens and for visiting foreigners. Lawlessnes

13. (C) The various incidents grouped together in this cable have in common their recent timing and the fact they were incidents of violence,

YOVANOVITCH